

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 26, 2000 the title of the invention was objected to; claims 1-7 were objected to for informalities; claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness; and claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (US Patent No. 5,893,114) in view of Domen (US Patent No. 5,504,676).

The foregoing rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action mailed April 26, 2000 the Examiner noted that claims 1-7 were pending, and rejected claim 1-7. Claims 1-7 have been amended, new claim 8 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-8 remain pending for reconsideration, which is requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

SPECIFICATION

The Title of the invention, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, has been changed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 7, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, have been amended to improve form only and not for overcoming the rejections based on the relied upon references. Withdrawal of the objections to claims 1-3 and 7 is respectfully requested. Claims 4-6 have also been amended to improve form only and not for overcoming the rejections based on the relied upon references.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTIONS

Rejected claim 3, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, has been amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

35 USC 103 REJECTIONS

Hashimoto

Hashimoto discloses a system for collecting document information referred from various document management servers through a communication network in a database managed by a user to allow retrieval of the document information. The system also notifies the user of new information from the various document management servers that relate to the referred document information.

Domen

Domen discloses a slip processing system applied to the automation of job processing performed by a plurality of persons or departments. Domen discloses a system which may simplify a job in which forms of a predetermined input format are used and a frequency of use thereof is once per long term such a month, quarter or year and the input format is changed at frequency of once per several times of use. In particular, Domen appears to separate input format and data, and content of processing (i.e., by correlating a form, such as an ordering slip, in electronic format with data of the form), so that the content processing may be copied from an existing one even if the format of the slip is changed. *See* columns 4, lines 15-17; and column 15, lines 3-6.

Combination of Hashimoto and Domen

In one were to combine Hashimoto and Domen, the combined system would disclose a system for collecting document information referred from various document management servers through a communication network in a database managed by a user to allow retrieval of the document information. The system also notifies the user of new information from the various document management servers that relate to the referred document information.

Further, if a document includes an input form, the system would perform content processing and separate input format and data, and content of processing (i.e., by correlating a form, such as an ordering slip, in electronic format with data of the form), so that the content processing may be copied from an existing one even if the format of the slip is changed

Claim Recitations of the Present Invention

In contrast to the foregoing references, the present invention (as recited in each independent claim 1, 7 and new claim 8, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) comprises:

a determination section determining for each document stored in said document storage section by reading out the master information maintained by said information management device through said communication section "whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master information"; and

a rewriting section "rewriting any of the attribute information included in the document when said determination section determines that the attribute information conflicts with the master information".

A benefit of the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention is to provide a document management system in which when master attribute information for documents is changed, contents of a document that includes attribute information of the documents can be matched or updated with the changed master information. Therefore, documents that include attribute information of documents as objects to be distributed can be updated reflecting current information and are more accurately managed.

In contrast, Domen only discloses updating of the input format (i.e., the ordering slip) without checking whether there is any conflict between the old input format and the new input format. The Examiner asserts that such updating as disclosed in Domen also implies conflict checking. However, the system in Domen would also operate without such conflict checking, because Domen is directed to separating input format and data, and content of processing (i.e., by correlating a form, such as an ordering slip, in electronic format with data of the form), so that the content processing may be copied from an existing one even if the format of the slip is

changed. Therefore, Domen does not disclose or suggest (as recited in each independent claim 1, 7 and new claim 8, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) checking “whether the attribute information included in the document conflicts with the master information”.

Therefore, in the present invention, (as recited in each independent claim 1, 7 and new claim 8, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) the determination section determines, for each document stored in the storage section, whether the attribute information conflicts with the master information. When the determination section determines that there is a conflict between the attribute information in a document and the master information, then the rewriting section updates the attribute information only in such document so that there is no conflict between the attribute information and the master information. Thus, when there is no conflict between the attribute information and the master information, then the attribute information in a document is not written. Such arrangement avoids a redundant or unnecessary update.

Dependent claims 2-4 (depending, directly or indirectly, from claim 1) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own and further are also patentably distinguishing over the foregoing references at least due to their dependencies from claim 1.

For example, claim 2 recites the patentably distinguishing features:

“said determination section determines that attribute information included in a document conflicts with the master information in a case where the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and also in a case where the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein” and

“said rewriting section rewrites corporate organization names in said document when it is determined by said determination section that the attribute information include in said document conflicts with the master information because the corporate organization codes included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein, and rewrites corporate organization codes in said document when it is determined by the determination section that the attribute information included in said document



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conflicts with the master information because the corporate organization names included in said document are stored in the master information but a combination of the corporate organization codes with the corporate organization names is not stored therein”

A benefit of these patentably distinguishing features is to provide a system in which documents that include attribute information of documents as objects to be distributed and the attribute information relate to a corporate organization for distribution of the objects can be updated reflecting current corporate organization information.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 and allowance of claims 1-7 and new claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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on September 26, 2000
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